Inside/Outside Review Circles

This cooperative learning structure provides opportunities for students to respond to textbook questions in a novel manner. With students grouped into inside and outside circles, they take turns asking and responding to textbook or teacher-generated questions. By rotating the outer circle, each student has the opportunity to work with more than one partner.

The process:

1. Select questions for students to discuss/answer. These may be student-generated questions, teacher-questions, or even questions provided in a textbook.
2. Arrange students in even-numbered groups with a minimum of 6 per group.
3. Each group divides in half: one group of 3 forms an inside circle facing outward, and the other group of 3 forms an outside circle facing inwards. Students should be standing opposite another student.
4. Explain which student asks the question and which student will respond.
5. Announce group guidelines:
   1. Be respectful / no put downs.
   2. Response time
   3. Rotation direction
6. Use a signal to begin and then monitor the responses being given.
7. After a set time, signal the outside circle to rotate clockwise so that each student stands in front of a new student.

*Differentiating Textbooks* by Char Forsten, Jim Grant, and Betty Hollas, 2003